



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE  
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## INFORMATION ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The State Medical Practice Act is very clear:

### Practice Authorized

2472. (a) The certificate to practice podiatric medicine authorizes the holder to practice podiatric medicine.

(b) As used in this chapter, "podiatric medicine" means the diagnosis, medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative, and electrical treatment of:

- the human foot
- the ankle
- the tendons that insert into the foot, and
- the nonsurgical treatment of the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the functions of the foot

If the procedure you are asking about does not fit into one of these four categories, it is not within the scope of practice.

Ankle surgery may be performed with a license that was originally obtained on or after January 1, 1984 [§2472(d)], or with a separate "ankle license" issued by BPM before 1999. The surgery may be performed only in licensed facilities subject to peer review, provided that the DPM has surgical privileges in a general acute care hospital [§2472(e)]. The Board defines surgical treatment of the ankle to include those parts of the tibia, fibula, their malleoli and related structures as indicated by the procedures. Licensees without ankle surgery licensure may contact BPM to schedule an ankle surgery exam.

DPMs may **not** perform *total* amputations of the foot or *administer* general anesthetics [§2472 (c)]. DPMs may administer IV sedation. Nurse anesthetists may administer general anesthetics for podiatric surgery.

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